

Forest Park Master Plan

Saint Louis

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Final Working Group Meeting
August 13, 1994

Prepared by:
The Forest Park Master Plan Project Team

PREFACE

YOUR FOREST PARK MASTER PLAN WORKBOOK AND HOW TO USE IT

This FOREST PARK MASTER PLAN WORKBOOK has been prepared to provide for an orderly and thorough process in considering decisions about policies and principles which will guide the development of a master plan for the park.

The workbook provides maps that will help in visualizing specific areas of activity in the park and in delineating the issues involved in serving all these activities as well as possible. The issues listed herein have been synthesized from numerous sources, including the Forest Park Summit, the 1983 Master Plan, the 1993 Master Plan, the current outreach program, and the professional expertise of the project team.

It is important to remember that this book contains no answers. It does not contain suggestions for policies. It does raise issues, ask questions that seem to need answers, and provide prompts suggesting relevant topics for discussion. Participants may see some issues as less relevant than others. Participants may see many other issues that are not stated herein. There are no limits provided here. The intent is to prime the pump, get the creative juices flowing, and to suggest starting points.

Obviously there may be some overlapping among the several divisions of working groups. For instance, it is important that the working group working on land use communicate with the working group dedicated to matters of access, circulation and parking. When this is not feasible or time does not permit, it will be the work of the executive committee to ensure that these interrelationships are considered and the final report comprehensive and integrated.

Each group has a tremendous task cut out for it and a finite time in which to accomplish the work. It is imperative that we all do the necessary study of this document and begin to identify questions to be raised and issues to be emphasized.

It is hoped that this document will assist and facilitate your work.

John Hoal
Acting Director of Urban Design - St. Louis Development Corporation
Chair of Forest Park Master Plan Project Team

Section 1: ACTIVE SPACE

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OVERVIEW

ACTIVE SPACE INCLUDES: **= ±411 acres** **32% of total acreage**

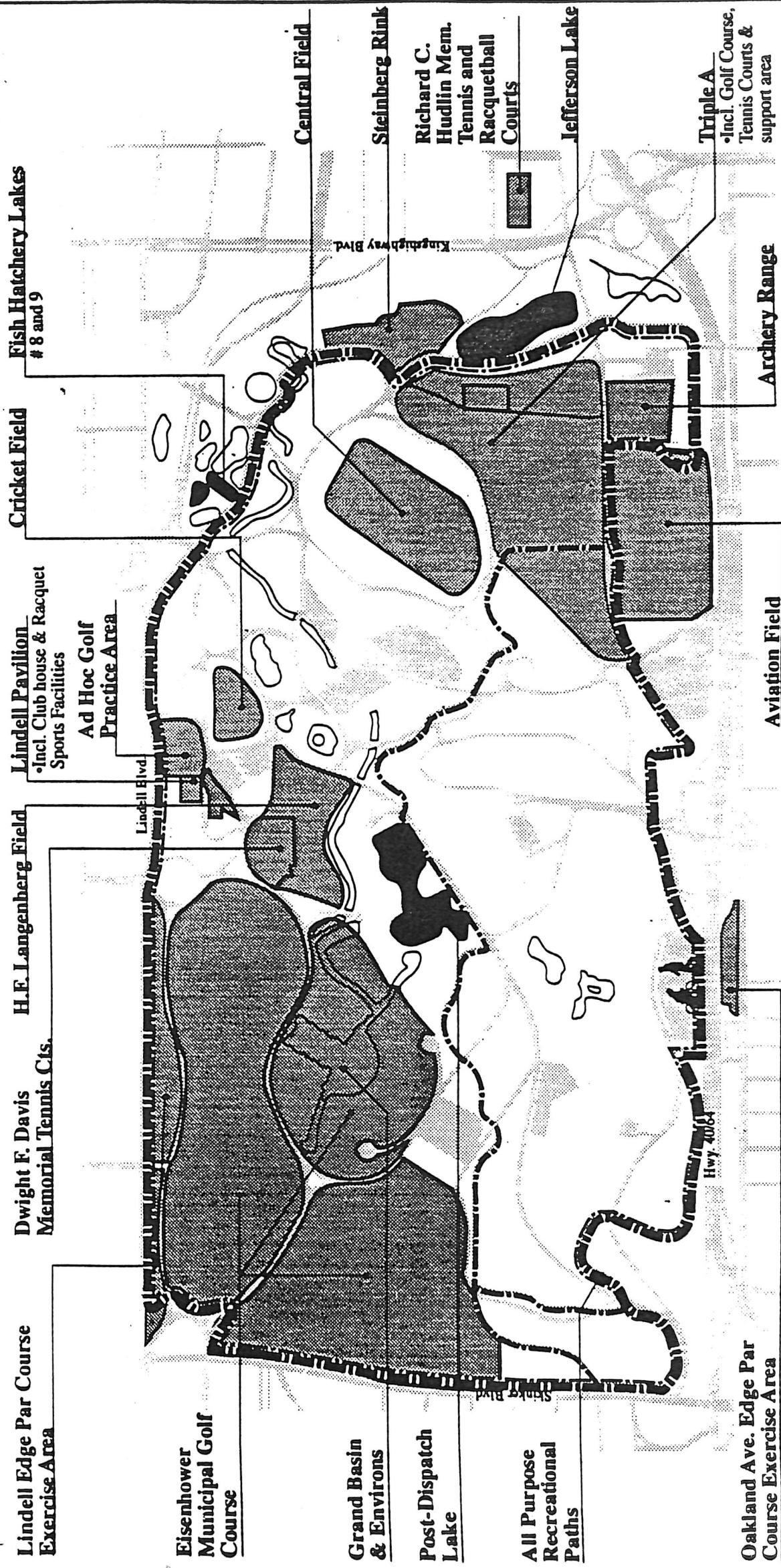
Athletic Fields & Archery	= ±68 acres	16.5% of Active Recreation
Golf Facilities	= ±295 acres	72% of Active Recreation
All Purpose Recreational Paths	= ±9 acres	2% of Active Recreation
Racquet Sports	= ±17 acres	4% of Active Recreation
Water Recreation	= ±22 acres	5.5% of Active Recreation

GENERAL ISSUES

1. There are conflicts between various active recreational uses as well as between active and passive uses.
2. All active recreation facilities are used intensely and thus have major maintenance and operational implications.
3. Are there any active recreational activities that should be added or removed from Forest Park?

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

•1929 - Park contained: 38- tennis courts, 20 baseball diamonds, 2 soccer fields, 2 handball courts, a croquet course, an archery range, 2 public golf courses



Total Active Space: ±411 acres

RACQUET SPORTS

Existing Conditions

INCLUDES:

1. Tennis courts & tennis backstops under stadium court stands at Dwight Davis Memorial Tennis Center.
2. Tennis courts at Richard C. Hudlin Courts.
3. Clay tennis courts at Triple A.
4. Racquetball at Lindell Pavilion.
5. Racquetball at Richard C. Hudlin Courts.
6. Handball at Lindell Pavilion.
7. Corkball at Lindell Pavilion.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

•1917 gas lighting was installed in the park to extended the tennis play to 9:30 p.m..

**Dwight F. Davis
Memorial Tennis Cts.**

7 acres

- 19 Tennis Courts (Lighted, membership or daily fee required)
- 1 stadium ct., 18 tournament cts.
- 4 Tennis backstops under stadium stands
- Hosts tournaments and functions.

Lindell Pavilion

.5 acres

- 4 Racquetball Courts (lighted)
- 4 Handball Courts (lighted)
- Permitted Users:
Forest Park Handball Assoc.
(Permits not req'd for user groups
- 1st come, 1st served)
- 1 Corkball Backstop.
- Clubhouse, lockers, showers & Pkg.

**Richard C.
Hudlin Mem.
Tennis Cts**

6.5 acres

- 6 Tennis Cts.
(Lighted, no fee)
- 4 Racquetball Cts.
(no fee)
- 65 year lease.

Hwy. 40/64



Total Racquet Sports Acreage:
• 17 acres

Triple A Tennis Cts.

3 acres

- 12 Tennis Courts
(membership or daily fee required)

Support Facilities

- 10 acre support area
- Site includes:
Golf Practice Range Area,
Clubhouse, tennis, parking
and Entry Rd.
- 20 year lease.

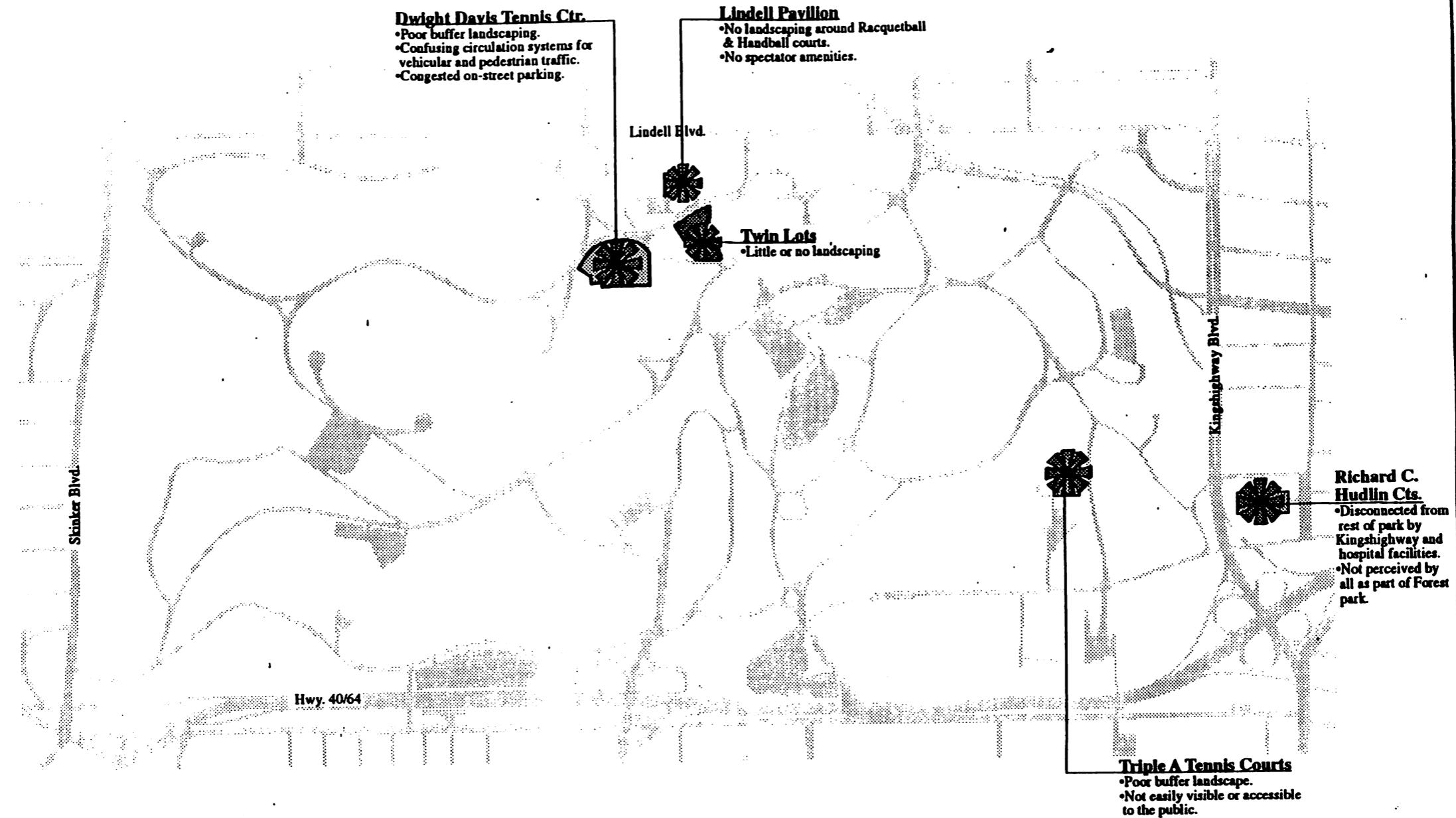
RACQUET SPORTS

Issues

1. There is ample parking at the twin lots near Dwight Davis Center and Lindell Pavilion which is not well utilized.
•*Should Dwight Davis and Lindell Pavilion users be encouraged to use the twin lots to the east of Dwight Davis?*
2. Dwight Davis Tennis Center outer courts, Triple A Tennis Courts and Lindell Pavilion racquetball and handball courts have poor buffer landscaping.
•*Should landscaping be improved around racquet sports facilities to more effectively blend them into the surrounding landscape?*
3. Richard C. Hudlin Courts and Lindell Pavilion racquetball and handball courts are free. However, they are not perceived by all as part of Forest Park.
•*Should more courts be free for public use?*
•*Should court management be more closely monitored to ensure open and free courts to the public?*
•*Should courts be relocated to areas with better access for all park users?*

LAND USE
Active Space

RACQUET SPORTS
Issues



WATER RECREATION

Existing Conditions

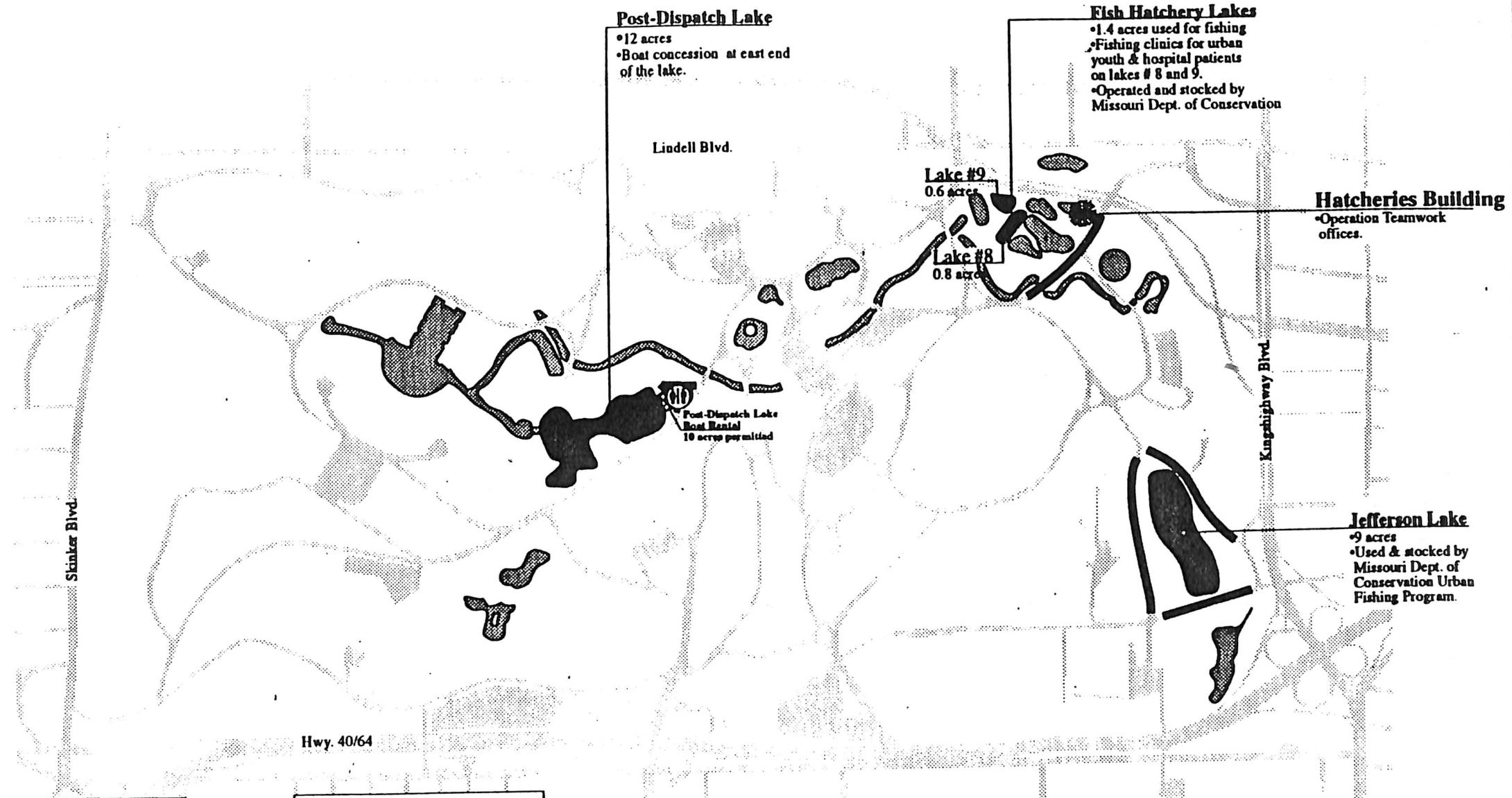
INCLUDES:

1. Paddle, electric and canoe boat rental from boat concession at east end of Post - Dispatch Lake.
2. Urban youth fishing programs at Jefferson Lake (Stocked and operated by Missouri Dept. of Conservation).
3. Urban youth fishing programs at Fish Hatchery Lakes #8 & #9(Stocked and operated by Missouri Dept. of Conservation).
4. Fishing from lake edges on all lakes with state permit except Fish Hatchery Lakes.

Note: The Dept. of P,R & F policy is to prohibit private boating unless authorized.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

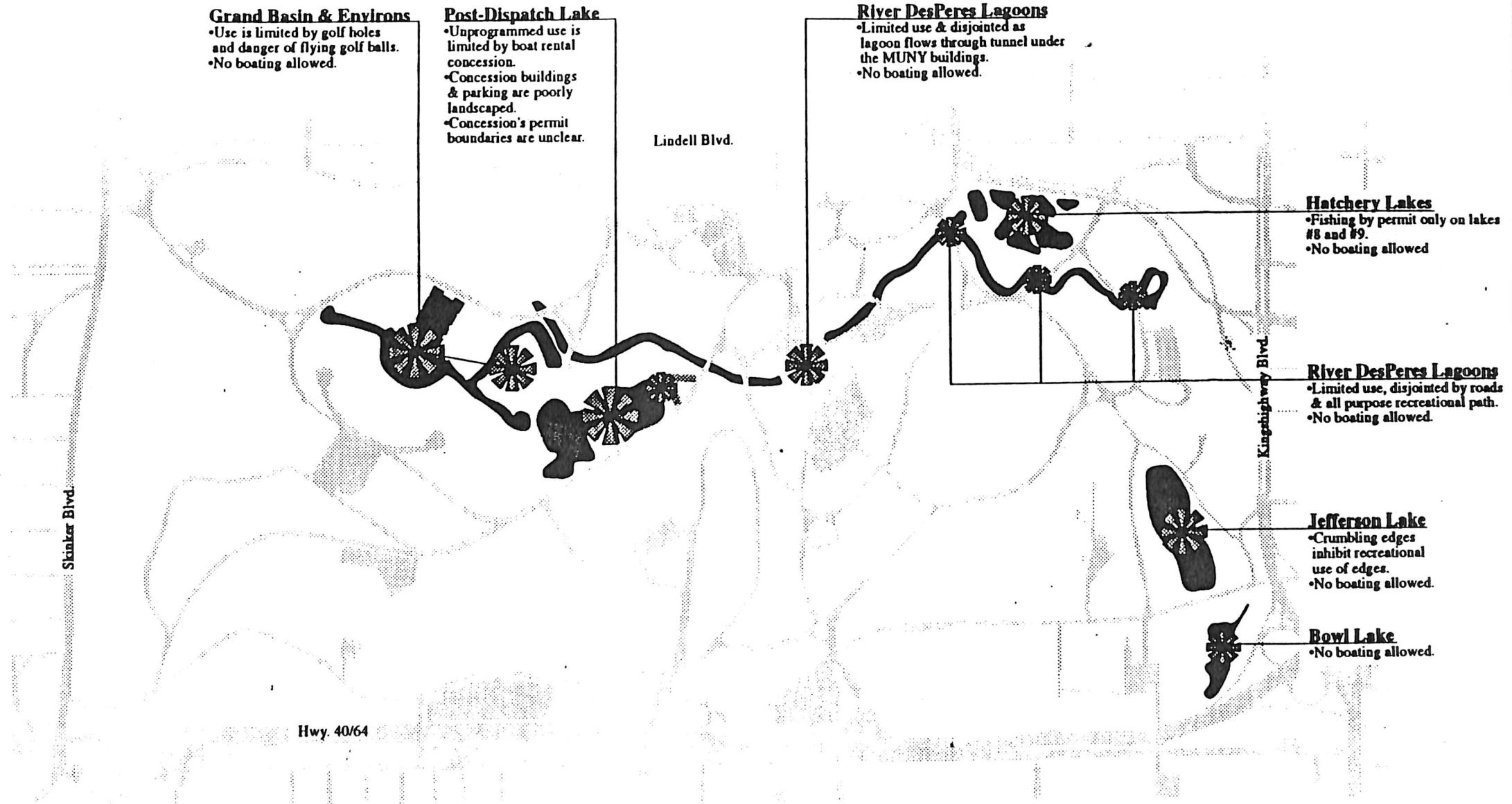
•1880s to 1930s the various concessionaires rented boats for use on the lakes.



WATER RECREATION

Issues

1. Grand Basin & environs' recreational use for fishing and boating is limited because of Municipal Golf Course holes.
 - Should there be water recreation in Grand Basin?
 - Should golf holes be relocated away from Grand Basin to allow water recreational use?
2. The park's disconnected, small and narrow lakes and lagoons function ineffectively as a recreational system, offering little opportunity for boating and other water recreation.
 - Should there be more boating in Forest Park?
 - Should there be more fishing in Forest Park?
 - Should there be more water play areas such as spray pools in Forest Park?
 - Should the lake system be expanded to increase water recreation opportunities?
 - Should there be recreation feature stops along a water path (lakes & lagoons used as a path)?
 - Should private canoes or row boats be allowed in lakes?
 - Should there be more of a focus on water recreation such as swimming, water jets, etc.?
3. Park roads and paths interrupt the flow of River DesPeres Lagoons. The lagoons tunnel beneath the MUNY. This results in limited recreational use.
 - Should lease and permit boundaries be modified to reduce the amount of water area affected by their boundaries?
 - Should new and/or expanded water bodies be created to increase the amount of water area not within lease or permit boundaries?
 - Should roads and paths be modified, relocated or removed to allow more continuous flow of the park's water system and increased recreational use?
4. All lakes and lagoons and their edges are in poor condition.
5. There are few paths, seating areas,etc. alongside the lakes and lagoons.
 - Should the water edge be designed so as to promote seating areas, strolling and other leisure activity?



WINTER & EVENING RECREATION

Existing Conditions

WINTER RECREATION

1. Ice skating at Steinberg Rink in fall and winter.
2. Ice skating on lakes and lagoons in winter (weather permitting).
3. Sledding on Art Hill(Municipal Golf Course hole #4) and Suicide Hill(Municipal Golf Course hole #8) in winter (weather permitting).
4. Unprogrammed cross country skiing on Municipal Golf Courses (weather permitting).

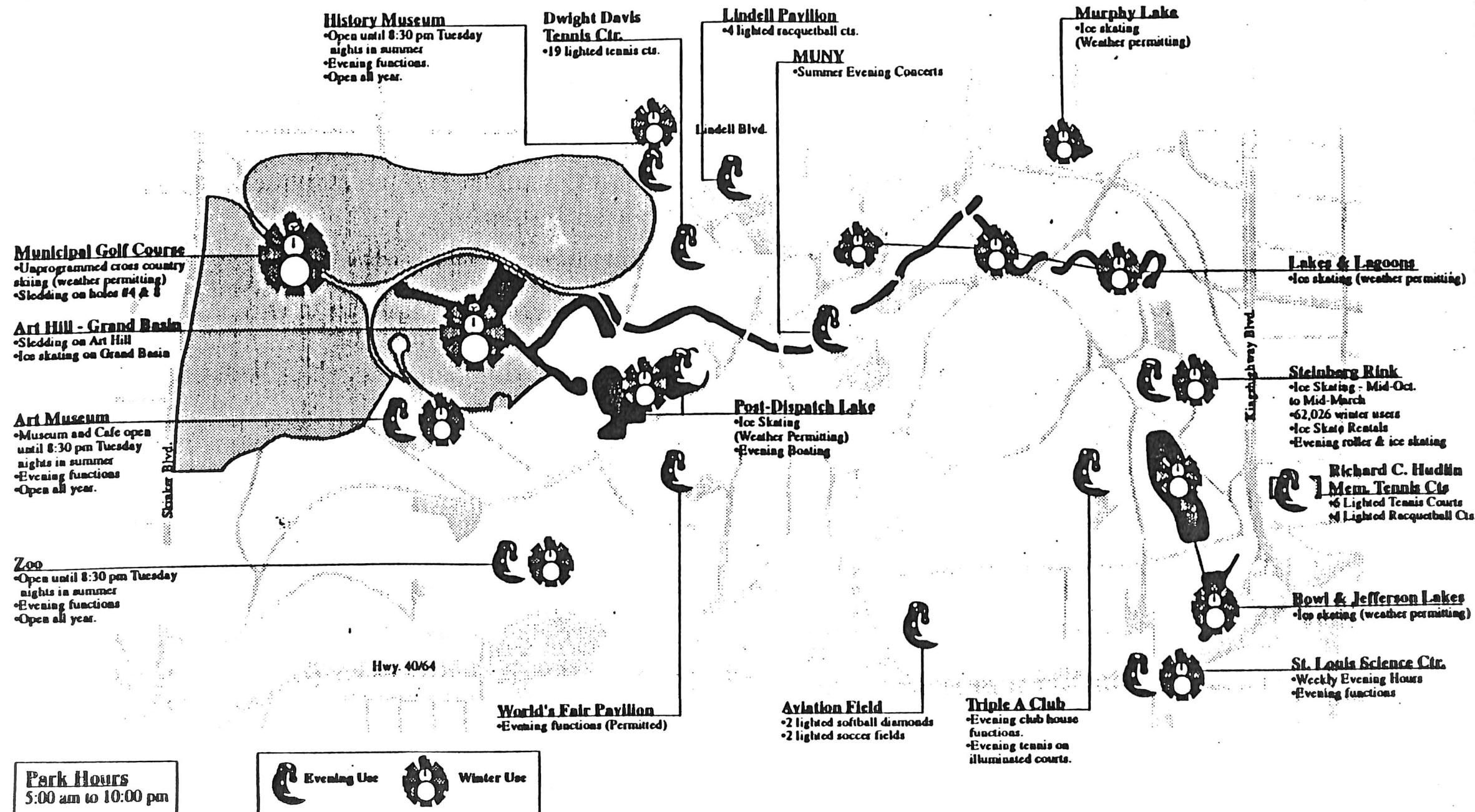
EVENING RECREATION

- 1 Night use of athletic fields on lighted fields.
2. Night use of tennis & racquetball courts on lighted courts.
- 3 Evening hours & special functions possible at cultural institutions & park facilities.
4. Rollerskating on summer evenings at Steinberg Rink.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

•In 1905, cleared of trees for the 1904 World's Fair, Art Hill became a natural toboggan run.

•Winter sports included ice skating in the Grand Basin. The parks department used to stop traffic in winter by the bird cage for sledding, even applying ice to make a faster course. This course was gaslight lit for evening sledding.



WINTER & EVENING RECREATION

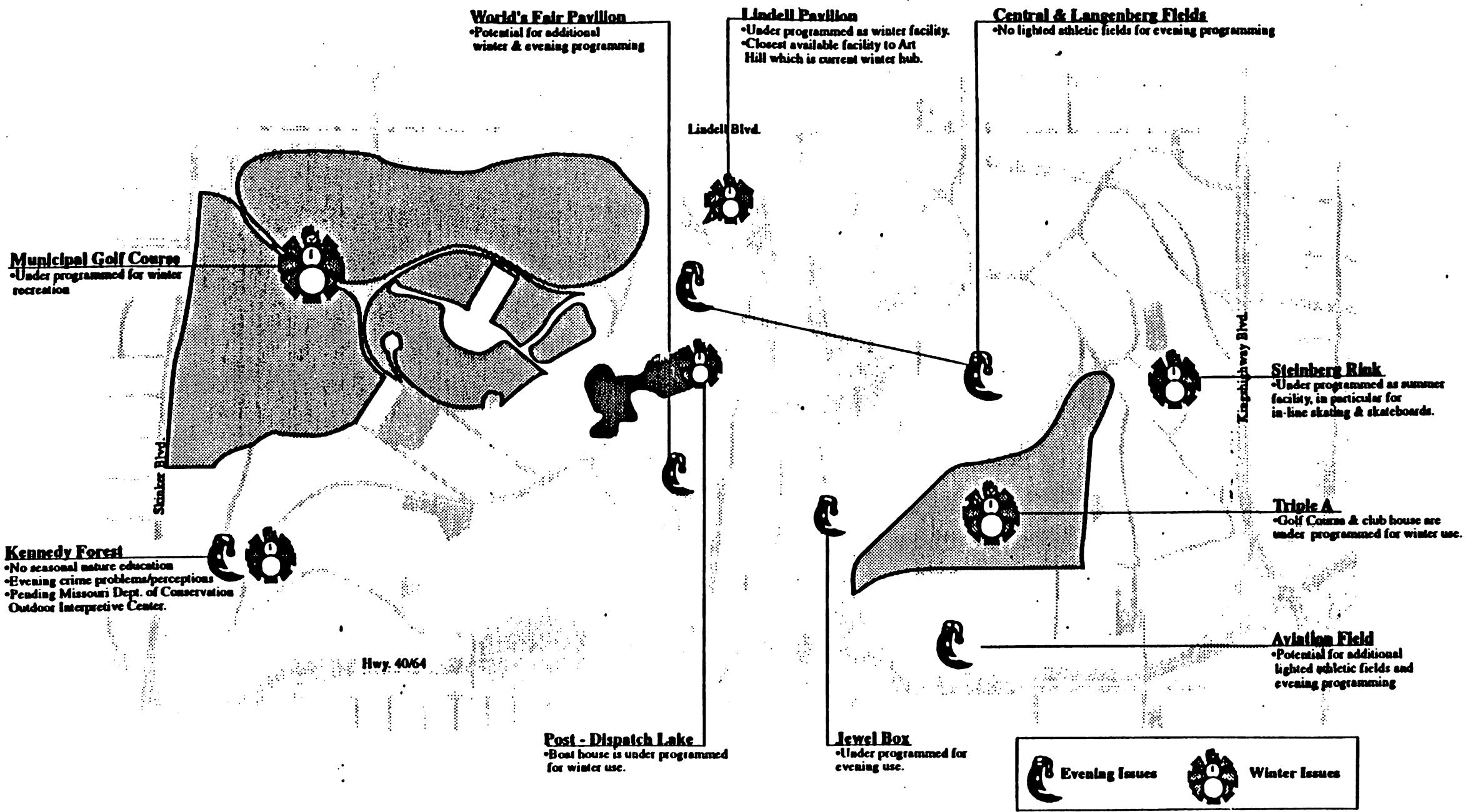
Issues

WINTER RECREATION

1. The park's recreational programming is devoted primarily to spring, summer and fall activities.
 - Should park programming and design promote year round park use?
 - Should there be a winter recreation center in the park?
 - Should more park buildings be programmed to accomodate winter use, possibly as winter recreation centers?
 - Should toilet facilities be open year round to serve winter users?
2. Park structures, lakes and lagoons, golf courses and other open space are under utilized in winter.
 - Could an expanded lake system potentially increase the area used for winter ice skating on frozen lakes?
 - Should the lakes be managed in winter as recreational amenities?

EVENING RECREATION

1. Few of the park's athletic facilities are lighted for evening use.
 - Should more athletic facilities be lighted and programmed for evening use?
2. Few of the park's recreational facilities are open during evening hours.
 - Should recreational facilities extend their operating hours to allow more evening use?



Section 2:
CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS &
PARK FACILITIES

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS & PARK FACILITIES

Overview

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS & PARK FACILITES INCLUDE:

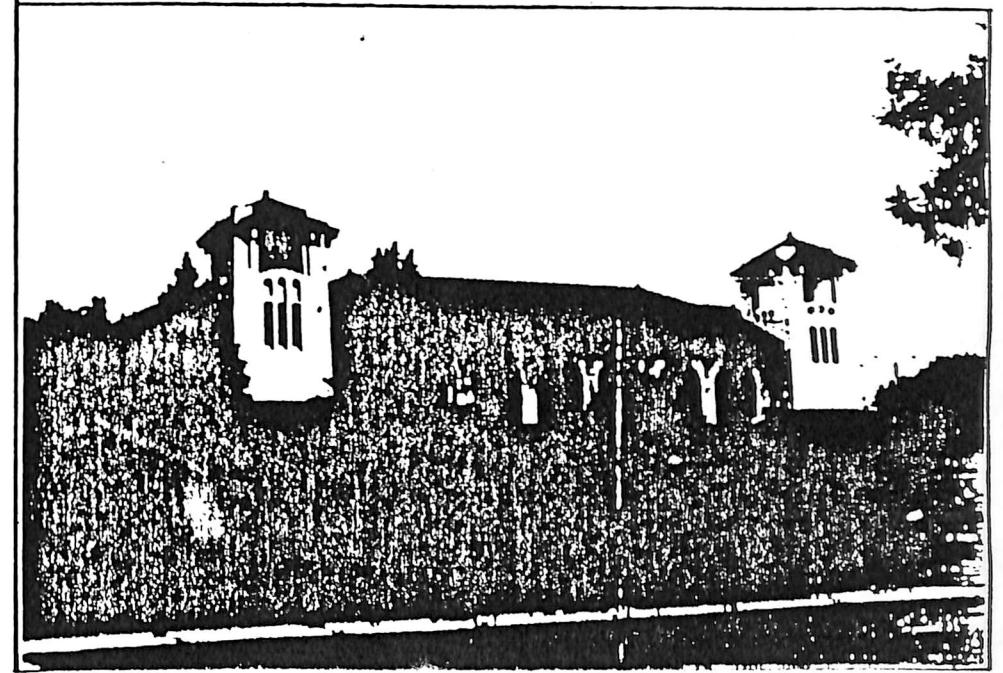
- Zoo-Museum District (ZMD) & Park Facilities
- Service & Support Facilities
- Youth Programming

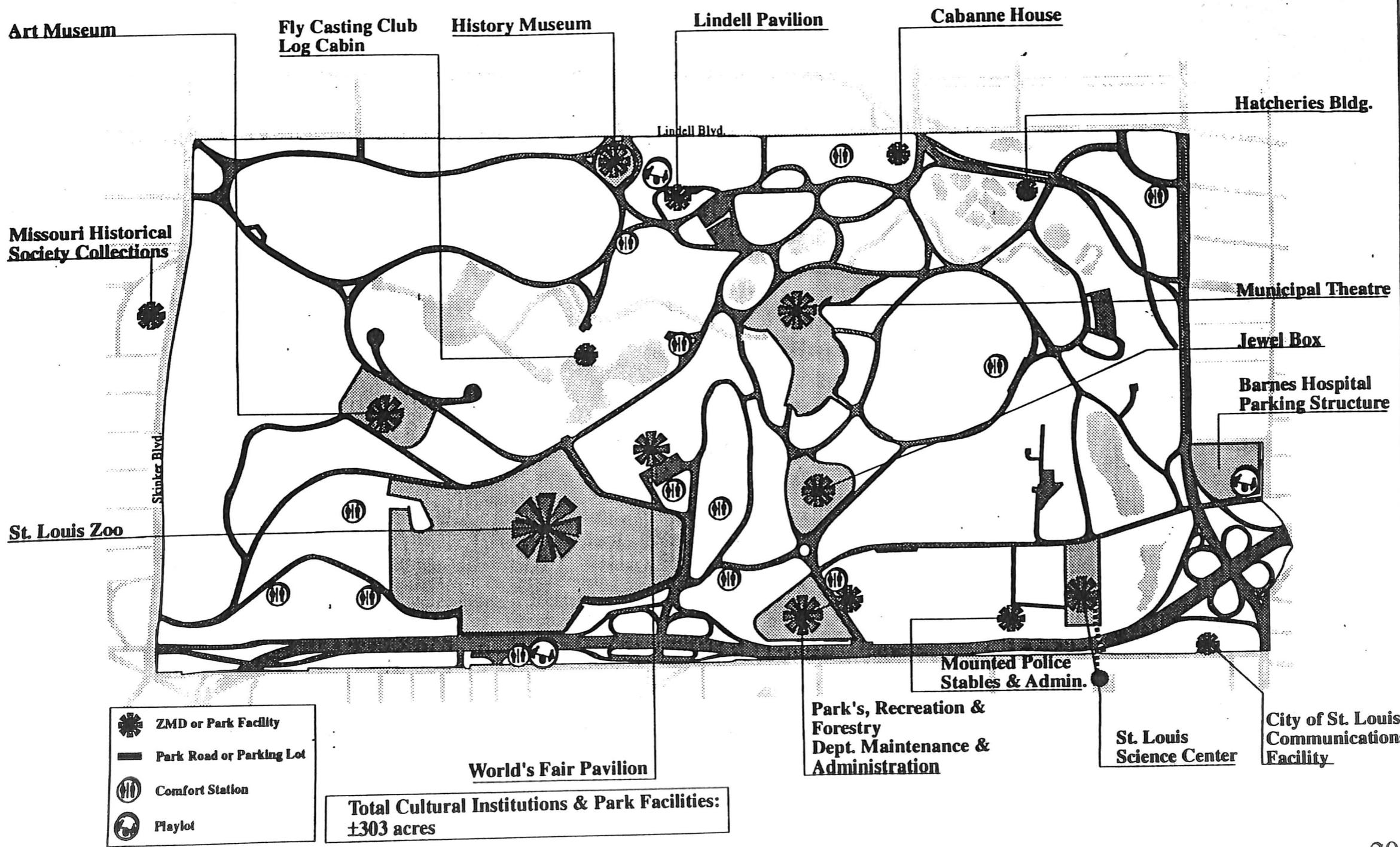
GENERAL ISSUES

1. The major cultural institutions would like to expand their programs and facilities.
2. The parks support and service facilities are not well intergrated into the overall use and function of the park.
- 3.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- From 1877 to 1905 Forest Park had an operating restaurant under a lease agreement named the Cottage Restaurant which existed before the Park became part of the city.
- The 1875-6 Forest Park plan called for floral decorations, a bandstand and a Forest Park Zoo. A small zoo was built and later a fenced area for 5 buffalo. By 1891 there was a variety of animals to be viewed by the public at no charge.
- The Washington University School and Museum of Fine Arts took possession of the art building from the World's Fair in 1906. It was open to museum members and families and only on Saturday and Sunday to non-members. There was also an art museum location downtown which soon closed because the attendance at the park location grew rapidly.





SERVICE & SUPPORT FACILITIES

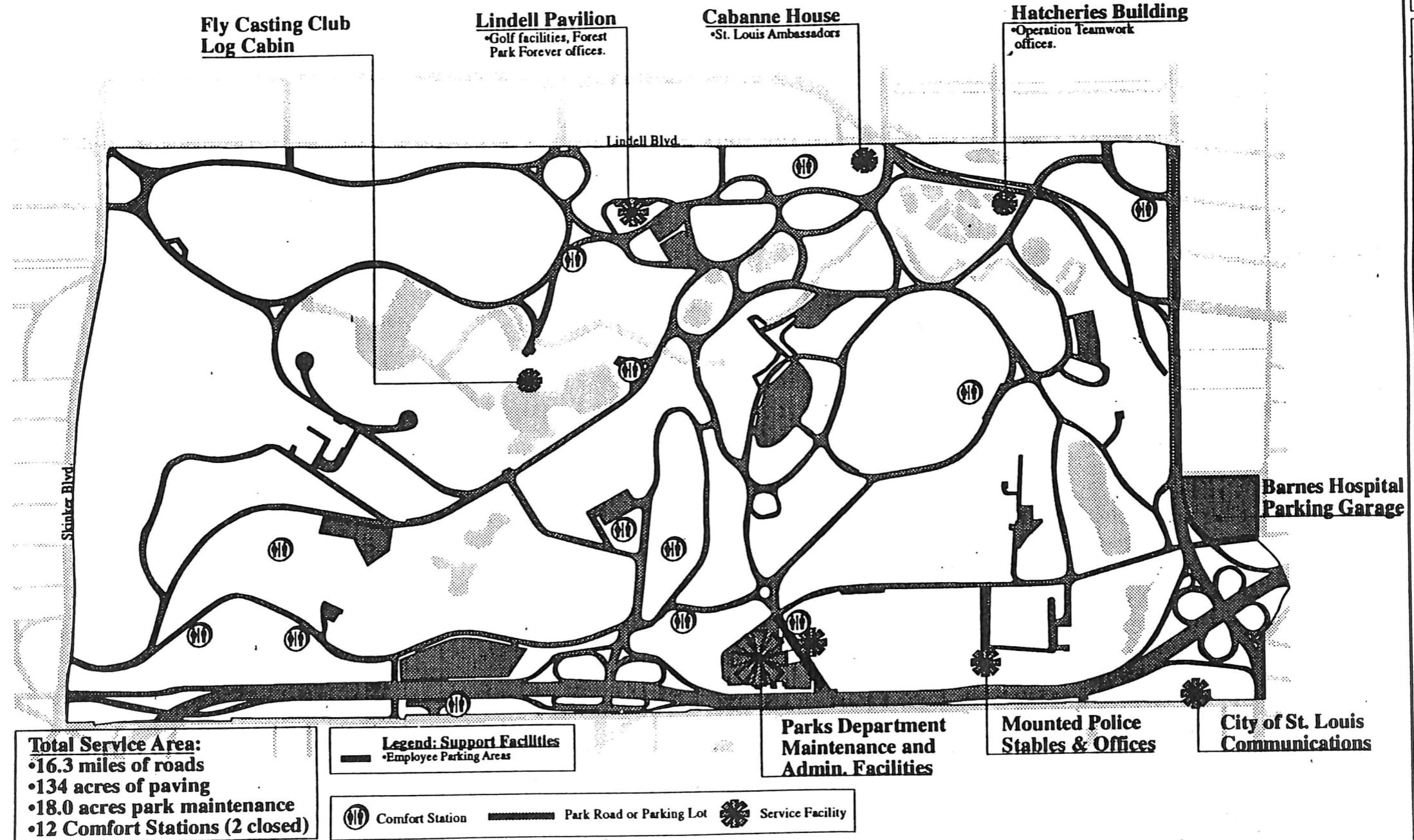
Existing Conditions

INCLUDES:

1. Parks, Recreation & Forestry Departments administrative offices and maintenance facilities
2. Non-park facilities incl. City Communications Center
Mounted Police stables and offices, Cabanne House and Barnes Hospital Garage
3. Lindell Pavilion
4. 12 Comfort Stations
5. Park roads and parking lots
6. Fish hatchery fly casting club at Log Cabin

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1879 Weigel started a 15 acre tree nursery in Forest Park because of previous problems with the city's supply commissioner. The nursery was stocked with 75,000 trees. The tree nursery was later moved out of the park.
- The Park had lavish floral displays. At first the plants came from outside Forest Park but in 1892 Commissioner Klemm moved the city greenhouses to the park. By 1987 all the park department's greenhouses were consolidated in Forest Park. (and heated with wood cut from the park at no expense to the greenhouses).
- 1894- The Mounted Police District Substation and stables opened with 20 acres of grazing area for the horses. This move was controversial as some believed it did not fit the plan of the park.



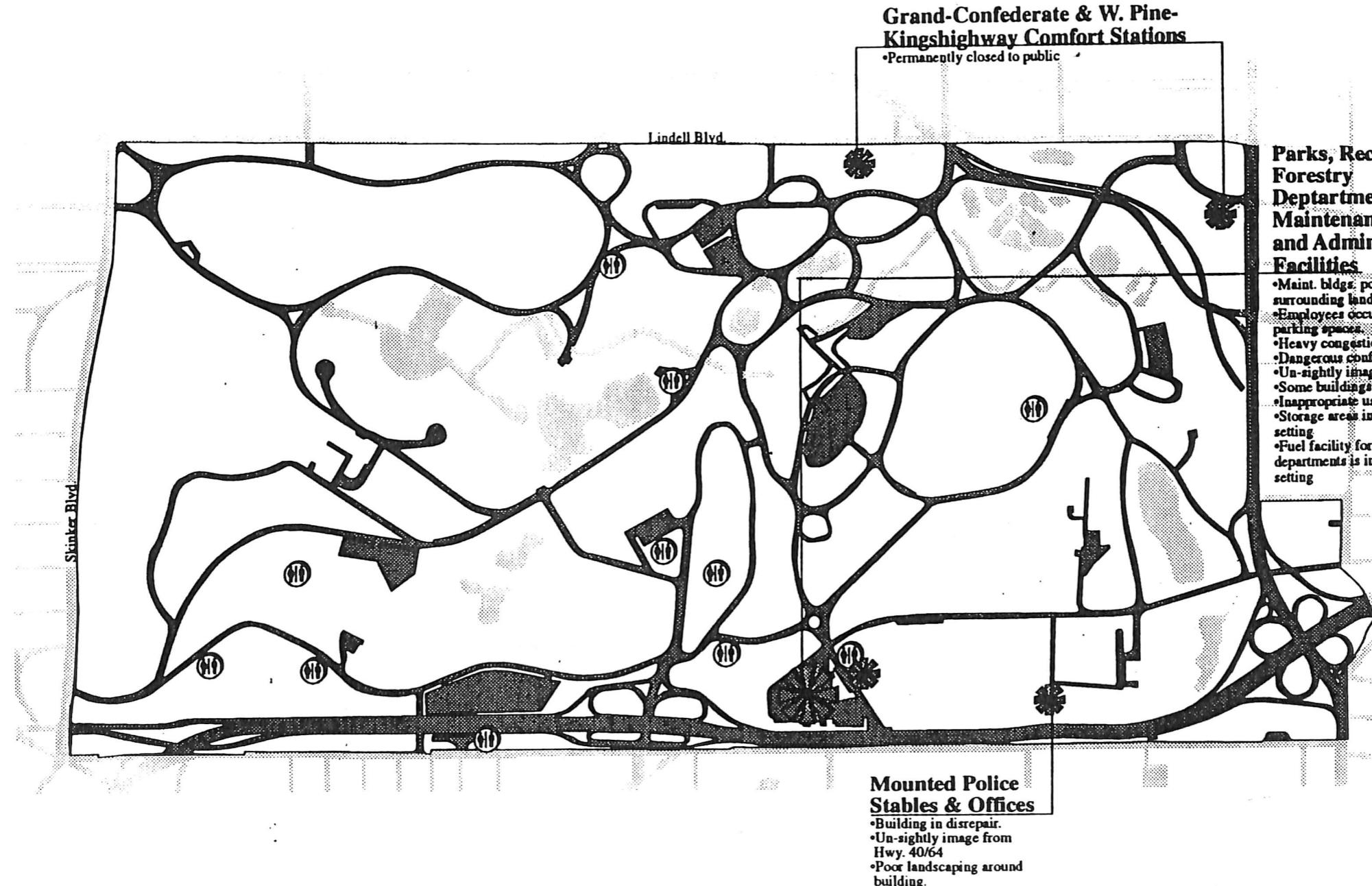
SERVICE & SUPPORT FACILITIES

Issues

1. There is an excessive number of roads in the park, used both by commuters and park recreators. The existing Forest Park road system has evolved over the years in an ad hoc manner in response to individual developments.
 - Are there too many roads in Forest Park?
 - Are there roads in Forest Park that should be removed?
2. Existing parking lots, are unsightly with little or no landscaping.
 - Should the landscaping in and around parking lots be improved to meet park landscape standards?
 - Should parking lots receive more buffer landscaping to screen them from view?
3. Parks Dept. maintenance facility configuration is spatially inefficient, aesthetically poor and it serves Forest Park and the city's central corridor, as well as other city agency's fueling needs.
 - Is it appropriate to have a regional maintenance facility in Forest Park?
 - Should maintenance facilities that do not directly benefit Forest Park be relocated outside the park?
 - Could the configuration of maintenance facilities be redesigned to be more spatially and occupy less acreage?
 - Could the maintenance facilities be redesigned to be more aesthetically sensitive to park surroundings?
4. Two of the park's twelve comfort stations are permanently closed to the public, all are closed in winter. Portable toilets are used for some special events.
 - Should comfort stations that are currently closed be re-opened in their current locations?
 - Should some comfort stations be relocated to better serve areas of high use?
 - Should some or all comfort stations be opened all year to serve users in all seasons?
 - Should new comfort stations be added in areas of need service?

LAND USE
Cultural Institutions & Park Facilities

SERVICE & SUPPORT FACILITIES
Issues



Parks, Recreation & Forestry Departments Maintenance and Administrative Facilities

- Maint. bldgs. poorly integrated into surrounding landscape.
- Employees occupy many on-street parking spaces.
- Heavy congestion from truck traffic.
- Dangerous conflicts with bike path.
- Un-sightly image from Hwy. 40/64
- Some buildings in disrepair.
- Inappropriate use of historic bldgs.
- Storage areas insensitive to park setting
- Fuel facility for other city departments is inappropriate for park setting

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

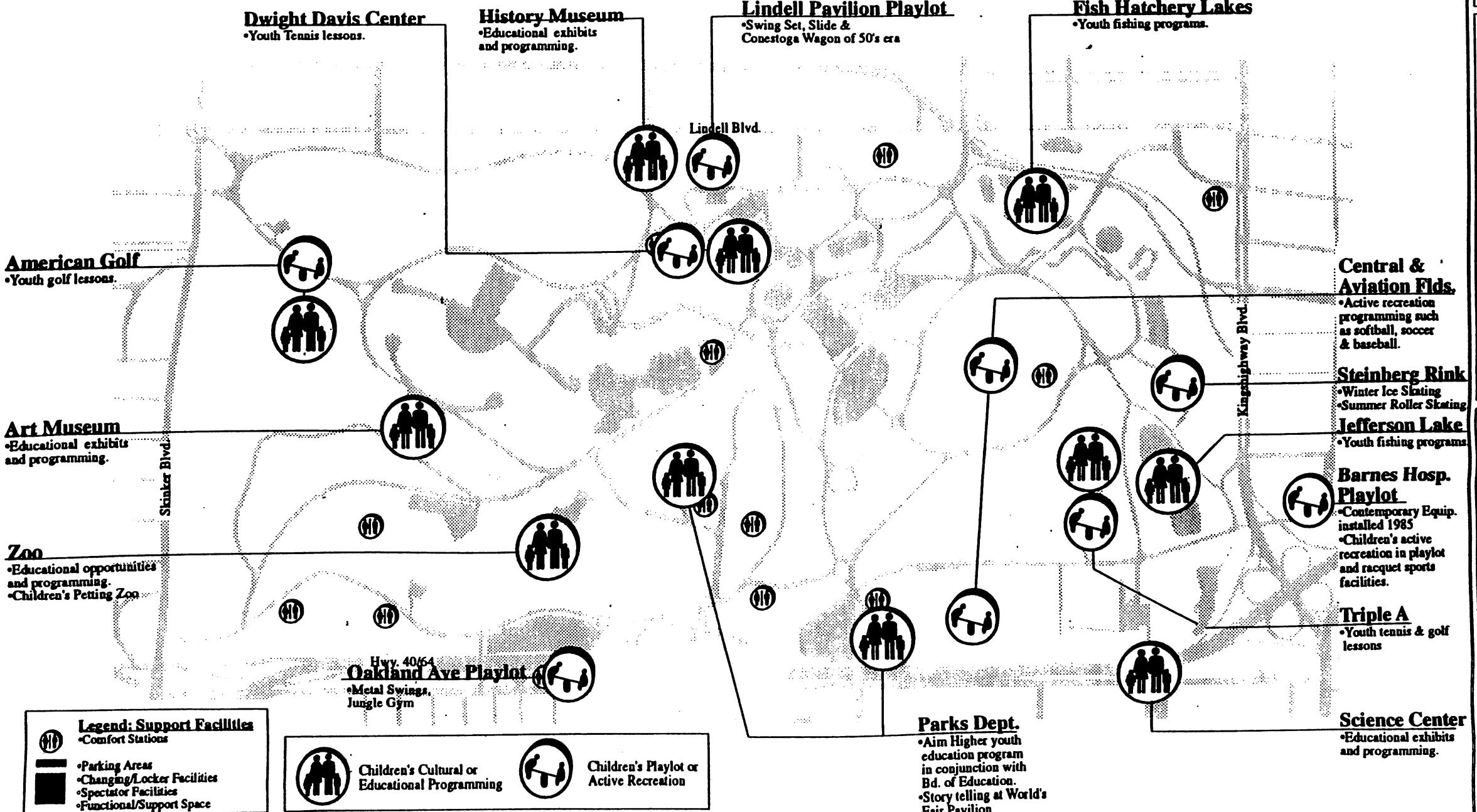
Existing Conditions

INCLUDES:

1. Playgrounds at Oakland Ave., Barnes Hospital Garage Area and north of Lindell Pavilion
2. Childrens petting zoo within Zoo boundaries
3. Cultural and educational opportunities at institutions
4. Youth athletic leagues
5. Skating at Steinberg Rink
6. Racquet sports on park courts
7. Training program are available for golf, tennis and skating
8. Parks Department story telling program at World's Fair Pavillion
9. Parks / Board of Education "Aim Higher"Program

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

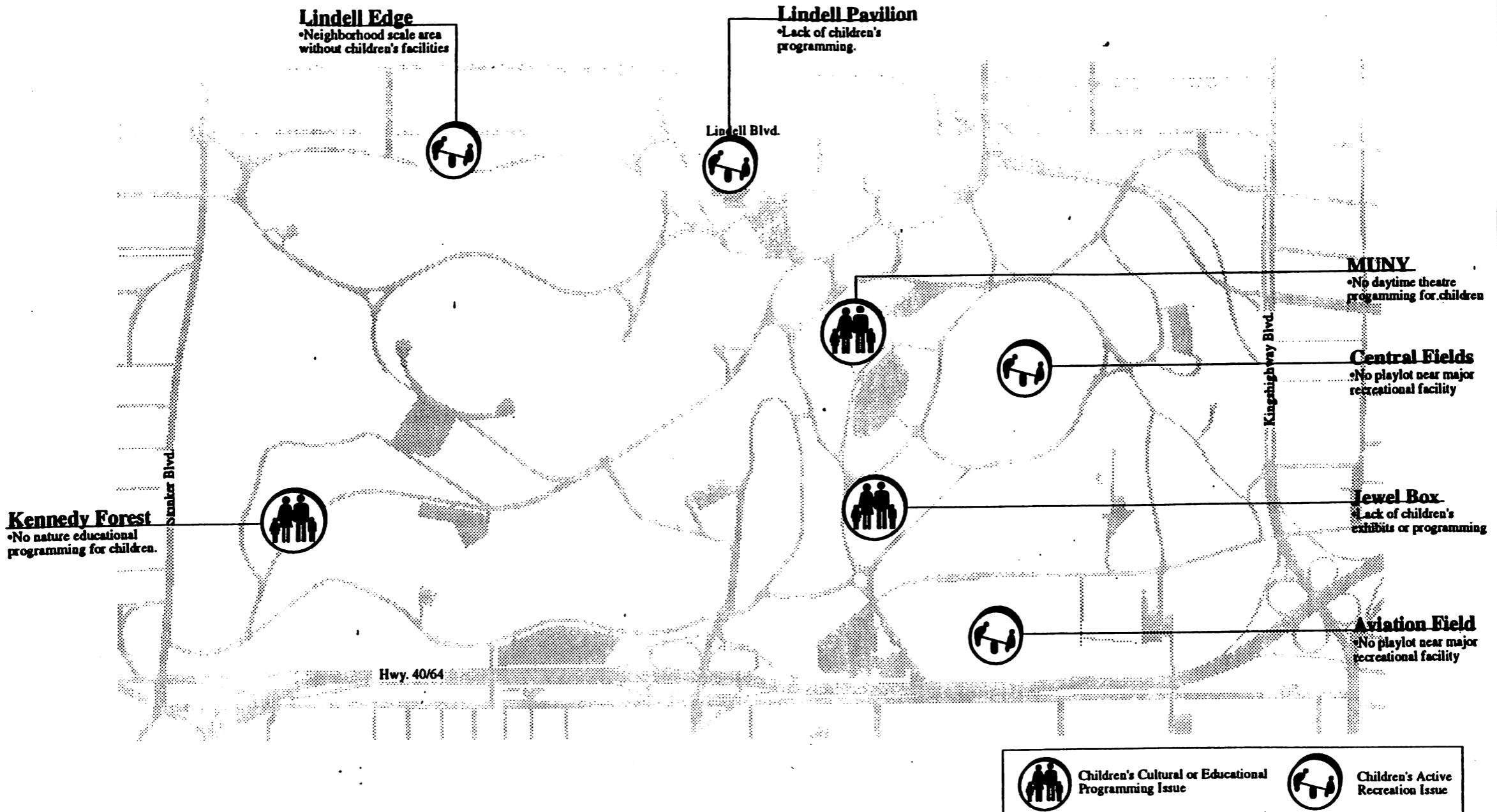
- The 1876 plan for Forest Park by Maximillion Kern, a European trained landscaper and Forest Park superintendent, included a children's playground.
- Dwight Davis promoted organized recreation believing it promotes health and builds character.
Davis also worked for a private St. Louis organization that built playgrounds for children in the city. 1907 the City Parks Department took over these tasks with the creation of a recreation commission.
- 1938 the annual playground pageant in Forest Park left the Municipal Theater and became ten nighttime pageants around the city. The total attendance did double however black and white families ended the summer playground season separately instead of together in Forest Park.



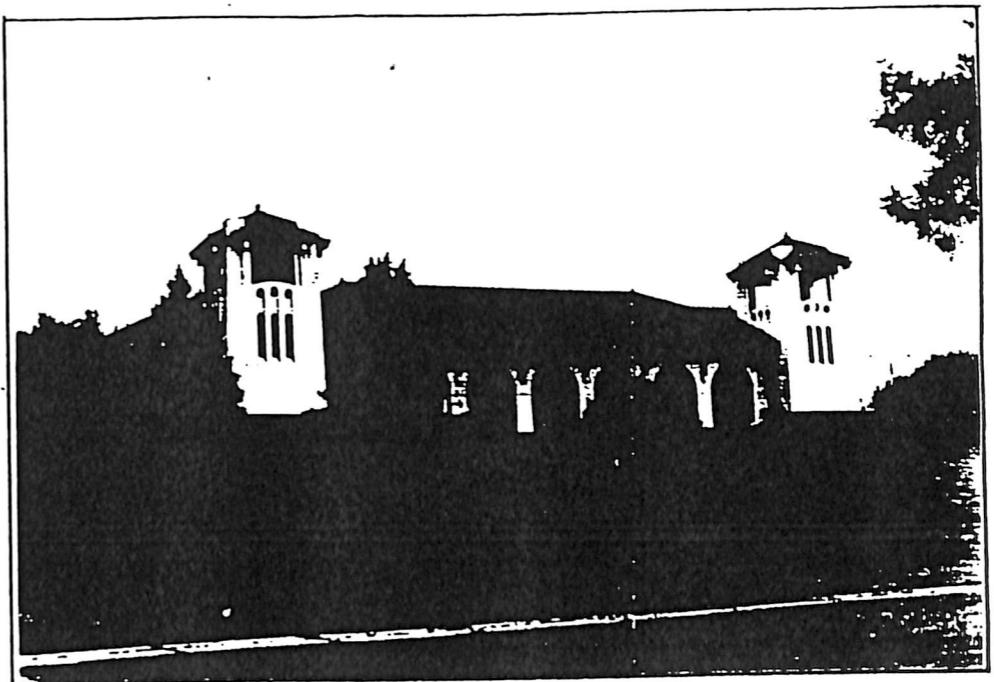
YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Issues

1. There are few major children's recreational areas in Forest Park dedicated exclusively to children with the exception of the petting zoo and three small playgrounds.
 - Should children's active recreation be located in Forest Park or is it a neighborhood use that belongs in neighborhood parks?*
 - Should children's recreation be expanded in Forest Park?*
 - Should there be additional playground space for children in the park?*
 - Should there be other forms of childrens recreation than playgrounds?*
2. Playgrounds are not provided along the neighborhood edge of the park with the exception of the Oakland Ave. playground and are not provided near athletic fields or Cultural & Recreational facilities with the exception of Lindell Pavilion.
 - Should there be playgrounds near major activity centers such as cultural institutions and athletic fields to serve both the children and their parents?*
3. Is there sufficient youth programming in the park?
 - Should there be additional programming dedicated to youth in the park?*
 - Should there be additional educational and interpretive programming in the park's natural areas?*



Section 3: PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Overview

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDES:

1. The existing City planning process.
2. Adoption of the master plan by the Board of Alderman.
3. Design review and maintenance standards.

GENERAL ISSUES:

1. There is a custom in the Board of Aldermen that matters before the Board affecting property in a ward are handled by the Alderman for that ward. The Park is currently entirely in the 28th Ward.
2. There is a custom in the Board of Public Service that matters before the Board affecting the Park are handled by the Parks Director.
3. Generally very few master plans in the City of St. Louis are adopted by ordinance by the Board of Alderman.

CITY PLANNING PROCESS

Existing Conditions

INCLUDES:

1. City plans can be adopted by ordinance and, or resolution by the Board of Aldermen and by a number of commissions.
2. The 1983 Master Plan for Forest Park was developed by CDA (Community Development Agency) and approved by the CDC (Community Development Commission). The Plan was submitted to the Board of Aldermen for review but was never formally acted upon by the Board.
3. In 1993 Forest Park Forever developed recommendations for a revision of the Master Plan for Forest Park.
4. Forest Park is not a designated historic district. Four sites, the Art Museum, Jefferson Memorial, Cabanne House and Statue of St. Louis designated as City landmarks. The Cabanne House is on the National Register of Historic Buildings and Places.
5. The implementation of any master plan is subject to the charter budget process within the Capital Committee and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and the Board of Aldermen.

CITY PLANNING PROCESS

Issues

1. The implementation of a master plan and daily management of the park are subject to the budget process of the Capital Committee, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment ("E&A" is comprised of the Mayor, the Comptroller, and the President of the Board of Aldermen) in April reviews the Budget Divisions proposed budget and holds hearings including a public hearing at which citizens may voice their concerns. The Ways and Means Committee of the Board of Aldermen also conducts public hearings on the budget in May and June.
Traditionally, there is little direct citizen input and participation.

•Is this public review process sufficient?

•How can this process ensure that the plan is implemented over the long term?

2. Heritage and Urban Design Commission (HUDC) currently has no legal review capacity over a master plan for Forest Park but has review capacity over projects completed within the park under Title 24 of the City Revised Code. HUDC has detailed review capacity over landmarks within the park, that is, HUDC can adopt and apply standards for the maintenance and rehabilitation of any landmark. Currently no standards exist for any buildings and landscapes particular to Forest Park.

•Who should review the master plan?

•Who should review the projects completed after the master plan for compliance with the master plan?

3. No previous plan for Forest Park has been adopted by the Board of Aldermen by either ordinance or resolution.

•Should the Master Plan for Forest Park developed by this process be adopted by the Board of Aldermen?

•Should the Master Plan for Forest Park developed by this process be adopted by the Community Development Commission?

DESIGN REVIEW

Existing Conditions

INCLUDES:

1. Heritage & Urban Design Commission (HUDC) has no legal review capacity over the master plan for Forest Park but has review capacity over projects completed within the park under section 24.16.120 of Title 24 of the City Building Code pertaining to exterior design review of ALL structures paid for by the city or erected in a park. However, this does not apply to landscape design projects. HUDC has detailed review capacity over landmarks within the park, that is, HUDC can adopt and enforce standards for the maintenance and rehabilitation of any landmark. Currently no standards exist for any buildings and landscapes particular to Forest Park. However under Title 24 property owned by the Art Museum is exempt from any review by HUDC and state law (the ZMD) further provides this exemption to the Zoo and Art Museum subdistricts in Forest Park. The History and Science Center subdistricts are not so exempted by virtue of their respective agreements. Typically HUDC review is tied to the building permit application process. If no building permit is required there is no mechanism for HUDC design review.
2. The Parks Department reviews all landscape design projects.
3. The Parks Department is in the process of setting up a monitoring system for recording the species, condition, age, size and location of trees and shrubs in the park.
4. All construction projects must be approved and recommended by the Board of Public Service.

DESIGN REVIEW

Issues

1. There are no detailed design and maintenance standards for art, architecture and infrastructure in Forest Park.
 - Should design standards be developed for the preservation, restoration of existing art, architecture and infrastructure?
 - Should maintenance standards be developed for the preservation, restoration of existing art, architecture and infrastructure?
 - Should design standards be developed for new art, architecture and infrastructure?
 - Should maintenance standards be developed for new art, architecture and infrastructure?
 - Should there be some form of public review of major projects other than the HUDC?
 - Should the city adopt a formal "public art" ordinance? (an ordinance is pending)
2. There are no detailed landscape design and maintenance standards for Forest Park.
 - Should landscape design standards be developed?
 - Should there be some form of public review of major landscape projects?
 - Should the Parks Department hire a full-time landscape architect designated for Forest Park?
3. The landscape monitoring system developed does not address long-term design and maintenance issues.
 - Should the monitoring system be changed to include a landscape architect and address the long-term design and maintenance issues?

Section 4: MANAGEMENT



MANAGEMENT

Overview

MANAGEMENT INCLUDES:

1. Parks Department Management

The Parks Department is responsible for developing, managing, operating, and maintaining parks, park areas, playgrounds, gardens and other areas used or owned by the City for recreation purposes and facilities in connection therewith. The Park Division can basically be broken down into five sections-Administration, Park Maintenance, Horticulture, Facility Maintenance/Security and the Permit Section. These sections are operated with full-time and seasonal employees.

PARK MAINTENANCE: The Park Maintenance Section is responsible for the operating and maintenance of 102 public parks comprising approximately 3,178 acres of park land an additional 300 acres of park strips and triangles located on major thoroughfares and residential streets. Maintenance of these areas includes mowing and trimming grass and removing litter and debris from these areas. They are further responsible for opening, closing, and cleaning restrooms; preparing athletic fields for play; emptying trash containers; inspecting playground areas, and sweeping up grass; preparing / cleaning and posting permits on picnic grounds; delivering equipment (bandwagons, stages, picnic tables, trash containers, barricades, etc.) requested by park users, civic and neighborhood organizations for special events; cleaning catch basins to prevent blockage; keeping lakes clean of litter and debris, and treating them with chemicals to control algae, etc. During the fall and winter months, the Park Maintenance Section assists in snow removal, tree trimming, leaf mulching, etc., and schedules any major park improvement projects, such as turf repairs, ballfield renovation, lake improvement projects etc.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE/ SECURITY: The Facility Maintenance section is responsible for the maintenance of all park infrastructure. The Security section is responsible for patrolling all city parks and recreation centers and has the same powers of arrest of a Metropolitan Police officer within the City.

HORTICULTURE SECTION: The Horticulture Section is responsible for the production of bedding plants for outdoor gardens, specialty crops for the Jewel Box, and landscaping for special projects. Over 300,000 flowering and foliage plants are propagated and maintained annually. These plants include more than 100,000 seasonal specialty plants grown for display at the Jewel Box and some 50 varieties of bedding plants which are used in outdoor gardens throughout the City. In 1987 the Horticulture Section successfully planted and harvested over 3,000,000 daffodils which were planted along city highways. Each year these displays are improved and maintained.

PERMIT SECTION: The Permit Section of the Park Division is responsible for all permits issued by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry. The Permit Section issues athletic field (softball, soccer, rugby, football, etc.) permits, picnic permits, vending concession permits, permits for major special events (Festivals, Walk-A-Thons, Concerts, etc.), and permits to use the Jewel Box for weddings. In addition, they reserve and schedule the delivery of all equipment requested for special events. Over 5,000 revenue generated permits are generated annually by the Permit Section.

ADMINISTRATION: Through the Park Division's Administration Section, the above described activities are coordinated and monitored. In addition, they respond to all citizen inquiries and concerns.

2. Other Facilities Management as it pertains to Forest Park

There is little management coordination between the park facilities and users, and the Parks Dept., and visa-versa. The Parks Dept. currently distributes calendars monthly to park institutions and neighborhood organizations. Calendars are available on request. Some cultural institutions and facilities in the park notify the Parks Dept. of their events.

SPECIAL EVENTS & MARKETING

Existing Conditions.

INCLUDES:

1. Events coordinated with Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry:
 - a There are approx. 250 special events in Forest Park per year requiring additional maintenance tasks, park employee time and security
 - b. Events in Forest Park are permitted through the Parks Department. Certain permits also require BPS approval. There are 5,000 revenue generating permit events annually.
 - c. The Forest Park Manager works with various organizations such as the Girl Scouts, Channel 4, neighborhood organizations, Balloon Race, etc., on funding and hands-on programs.
2. Events held independently by other facilities in the Park:
 - a. Many of the cultural institutions in the park currently hold their own special events and outreach programs, and would like to expand and improve their programs and events.
3. The facilities in the park for special events include the Worlds Fair Pavilion, the Jewel Box, the athletic fields and the golf courses.
4. The Parks Dept. does not market Forest Park since this is the role of the Convention and Visitors Commission. The Parks Dept. distributes information on the Park on request.

SPECIAL EVENTS & MARKETING

Issues

- 1. Some citizens think the park should have more events, such as concerts, some of which should be free.**
 - Should an area within the park be designated for festivals?
 - Should special events be limited due to conflicts with regular park activities?
 - Should regular park activities be limited due to conflicts with special events?
 - Should Forest Park be enhanced by new educational programs and outreach activities?
 - Are there sufficient programs to serve the diverse needs and people of St. Louis?
- 2. During large events there are not adequate restroom facilities.**
 - Should temporary restroom facilities be added for large gatherings?
 - Should existing restroom facilities be equipped for winter use?
- 3. There are few volunteer programs**
 - Should Forest Park Forever and/or the Parks Dept. develop volunteer programs?
 - Should the institutions develop opportunities for park improvement projects?
- 4. There is a lack of visitor facilities for park patrons.**
 - Should Forest Park contain a visitor center?
 - Are there any facilities that would add to the parks attractions?
 - Should the park allow additional vendors?
 - Should there be maps of the park as part of the signage system?
- 5. The issue of marketing**
 - Should Forest Park be marketed through national media?
 - Should the Convention and Visitor Bureau implement marketing plans?

SECURITY

Existing Conditions

1. Security in Forest Park is provided by the St. Louis Police Department (District 2), the Mounted Police Section, the Park Security Force, ZMD Subdistrict Security personnel.
2. The primary source of security in Forest Park is provided by the St. Louis Police Department.
3. The Park Security Officer has the same powers of arrest as a St. Louis Police Officer within the Park itself. If a major problem arises in the Park, the Park Security Office can request additional assistance from the St. Louis Police Department. Park Security personnel are charged with maintaining order in the Park, patrolling all areas of the Park, enforcing traffic movement through the Park, legal parking of vehicles in the Park and enforcement of Park ordinances. Unfortunately, however, due to the lack of numbers and training this force primarily is used to guard park buildings, vehicles, and the park maintenance area. Five Park Security Officers are assigned to patrol Forest Park on a daily basis, seven days per week. They are assigned as follows: one Officer from 8am to 4 pm , two Officers from 4pm to 12 midnight, and two Officers from 12 midnight to 8am. The Park is patrolled by the Mounted Police Section on a daily basis, seven days per week from approximately 8am to 6pm and later in the summer months; and by Second District patrol officer on a 24 hour basis. Officers from the Traffic Division also are assigned on weekend and holidays.
4. In addition, each of the Subdistricts (Art Museum, History Museum, Science Center and St. Louis Zoo) are supported by their own security personnel.
5. There is a perception that Forest Park is not a safe place to visit, but in fact the exact opposite is true. Forest Park is quite safe and based upon crime data for Forest Park provided by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for the years of 1992 and 1993, the most common types of crime in Forest Park is larceny; the highest crime months are June, July and August, the height of the tourist season; and the majority of crimes are committed between the hours of 7am and 7pm.

SECURITY

Issues

- 1. The public wants more policing of the park.**
 - Should the mounted police be expanded?*
 - Should there be Park Department "Rangers"?*
 - Should all Parks Department Officers be uniformed?*
- 2. Lighting for night use of areas has been expressed as desirable.**
 - Should additional athletic fields be lighted in the park?*
 - Should pedestrian paths be lit?*
 - Should monuments be lit?*